

a museum of American women's history so that they can better understand the contributions of American women to the development of our Nation and its proud history.

As with the legislation that would establish a museum celebrating and commemorating the history of Latino and Latina Americans, this legislation has passed the House by an overwhelming margin. Surely, we ought to be able to take it up and pass it here too.

So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 599, S. 959. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be withdrawn, the Murkowski amendment at the desk be agreed to, and the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LEE. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I think this is a sad moment. I had hoped that we could proceed with both of these bills and pass them before the end of this year.

Surely, in a year where we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, this is the time, this is the moment to finally pass the legislation unanimously recommended by an independent commission to establish an American women's history museum in our Nation's Capital. I regret that that will not occur this evening, but we will not give up the fight.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I would like to follow up on the comments you have just shared with your support for a women's history museum and also to the comments made by the Senator from New Jersey and also the Senator from Texas regarding the American-Latino museum.

I am privileged to serve as the chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. As part of that subcommittee, we have oversight of the Smithsonian, and it is an incredibly rewarding part of the job that I have to do with oversight. So I am very well aware of these national treasures, what they contribute to the education, to the dialogue, and to just the motivation that comes when we know and understand more about our own country and about the people who make up this extraordinary mosaic called America and how we recognize and how we celebrate those contributions, how we acknowledge the challenges that women have faced along the way, African Americans or Latinos, as they have truly been extraordinary participants in this American society.

I also recognize that our Smithsonians don't come free. They

don't come cheap, as the Senator from Utah noted. The Smithsonians are funded with significant Federal taxpayer dollars, so we are required to show a level of—exercise with how we move forward. And we have been extraordinarily judicious.

I think, as the Presiding Officer noted in her comments, when the discussion of a women's history museum first came about, it was not just a flash-in-the-pan idea. It was something that had germinated a long period of time. It goes to a commission. There are a series of steps and approvals that they must go through along the way. So the path that we have taken has led us to the point today where there has been a request made to be able to advance both of these significant recognitions to American Latina and American women by way of additional Smithsonian facilities.

I support both of those, just as I have supported our Smithsonians as new ones have come online—the African-American museum most recently—or the renovations that have been underway for a period.

I also recognize that the effort tonight made by both the Presiding Officer, as prime sponsor of the American women's history museum, and incorporating an amendment that I had requested that ensures that as we are looking to sites for these significant facilities, that we are doing so with a level of a cooperation. I don't think anybody wants to be in a situation where the Smithsonian would effectively be able to tell, whether it is the Department of Agriculture or the U.S. Forest Service, we want your building. That is not how the process works.

So the amendments that were incorporated in both of these measures that were before us today, I think, was an important one, I think was a significant one.

Some may have heard that LISA MURKOWSKI was not supporting these museums—far from it. What I wanted to ensure is that we have a good, sound process for where we site these extraordinarily—extraordinarily important facilities.

My hope is that we will resolve this impasse because the contributions, whether they be from women over the decades, the Latina community, Latino community, over the decades and the centuries, that there be facilities that appropriately recognize and celebrate them.

With that, I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when LAMAR ALEXANDER came to the Senate in 2002, he brought with him a wealth of experience and years of service to the State of Tennessee. As a Senator, he has remained a strong advocate for his State and its citizens, and as a col-

league, he has shown a willingness to work across the aisle for the good of his constituents, of the Senate, and of the Nation. Our partnership is one that I will miss when he leaves the Senate.

Throughout his career—as Governor of Tennessee, as president of the University of Tennessee, and as the Secretary of Education for President George H.W. Bush, and as a U.S. Senator—LAMAR has dedicated himself to improving education quality and access for Tennesseans and all Americans alike. He has continued and advanced that work as the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee. Senator ALEXANDER has a proven record of working across the aisle to develop solutions to our country's most pressing healthcare and education challenge, and we know there are many.

I have had the privilege of working with Senator ALEXANDER for many years on the Appropriations Committee. Senator ALEXANDER has been a trusted partner on the committee, striving to reach bipartisan compromise, which I believe has long been the hallmark of the Appropriations Committee. His work as the current chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee has helped make investments in clean and renewable energy initiatives, which in turn have brought about economic development and investment. I have long appreciated the work he has done to support agencies, programs, and initiatives that improve the lives of all Americans.

In a body as divisive as the Senate has come to be in recent times, LAMAR has become more than a fellow Senator; he has become a friend. LAMAR, Honey, and their children and grandchildren deserve all the best that the coming years have in store for them.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ENZI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one factor that helps make someone a strong representative of their constituents is the body of experience they bring to their job. MIKE ENZI has spent his life representing his constituents, first as a mayor, then in the Wyoming Senate, and ultimately in the U.S. Senate, a post to which the people of Wyoming have elected and reelected him four times.

While our States are quite different geographically, Wyoming, like Vermont, is State of close-knit communities, and it is easy to see how deeply Senator ENZI cares for his fellow Wyomingites and how firmly he prioritizes his constituents. As a Senator, he has worked to expand resources for vocational and technical education programs nationwide, and he has worked to protect and create jobs in Wyoming and across the United States as a strong advocate for domestic energy production from a diverse array of sources.

MIKE has been a longtime member and top Republican of the Senate Budget Committee and, before that, of the